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U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel, Paul Rock Jr., a National War College Student visiting USAID projects in India mesmerizes school children with a magic trick



Photo/Lt. Col., Brian J. Carroll

National War College Students Visit USAID Sites in Jaipur

Twelve students from the National War College of the U.S. recently visited Jaipur, where they had the opportunity to visit USAID projects and partners, focusing on education and women's empowerment.

The National War College (NWC) students, who are from both military and civilian U.S. government agencies, spent two weeks in India as part of year-long masters degree program in National Security Policy. Mid-level and senior military officers and civilians who are likely to be promoted to the most senior ranks of their agencies are selected to study at the NWC.

The enthusiastic group began their stay in Jaipur by meeting with staff from USAID's Tools for Teaching and Training (T4) program. This innovative program trains teachers in modern, participatory teaching methods and introduces tools such as radios, video, and computers into the classroom. For teachers, the program simplifies the teaching of difficult concepts in various subjects, including language, math, science, and social studies and enhances the learning experience for children

The T4 program began as a pilot in 900 schools with 85,000 students. State governments have taken over the program and

expanded it so that it now reaches 24 million elementary school students in 250,000 schools across six states.

Later the group visited a school in a Jaipur slum operated by Vihaan, a local NGO which focuses on child development and education.

The group also visited the USAID supported Muslim Women's Initiative (MWI) project site. Through this project, USAID is working with Muslim populations in two States to increase Muslim women's awareness of their rights under Islam and the Indian constitution.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

The NWC students heard first hand from several women how important the program had been in helping them to not only understand their rights but also how to exercise those rights.

Explaining that the cultural preferences for male children in many traditional communities has led to a serious disparity in the

ratio of male births to female births, women and staff also told the group about project efforts to combat gender selective abortions.

As a result of the program, more than 20,000 Muslim men, women, and girls as well as religious and community leaders and students have benefited from USAID supported workshops and

outreach activities that link rights-based education with skill development to improve livelihoods for Muslim women.

Now thousands of Muslim women are emerging as development agents within their communities, becoming more economically empowered, and changing attitudes about the role of women in their communities. ■



NWC students pose with staff and participants of the USAID supported Muslim Women's Initiative after they learn about the program and have an opportunity to buy products produced by the women as a result of project activities that link rights-based education with skill development to improve livelihoods

Photos/Lt. Col., Brian J. Carroll



South Asia Women In Energy Participate in D.C. Exchange Program

All over the world, as they care for their families, prepare meals, manage households, work outside the home, and contribute to their communities, women make countless small and large energy decisions every day. Women also make significant contributions to family subsistence, earnings, and family resource allocation, especially in poor households. So, increasing women's access to affordable and reliable energy services makes good development sense. Recognizing that women in South Asia play a key role in the management and delivery of almost a third of the region's energy consumption, USAID/India's South Asia Regional Initiative/Energy (SARI/E) has been working to systematically integrate gender into its regional work in the energy sector.

Following a highly successful regional workshop for women on efficient energy last year, SARI/E helped to establish the South Asia Women in Energy (SAWIE) network, which brings together more than 100, mostly women, energy sector professionals from the eight South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) to learn about, identify, and develop sustainable approaches to providing low cost efficient energy for the domestic sector, particularly poor women and their communities, in rural areas throughout the region. SAWIE exposes women to the opportunities available in pursuing a "green agenda," such as clean energy production through renewable and energy efficiency

practices and techniques in homes and communities. The SAWIE network also encourages women entrepreneurs to participate in the industrial and economic activities that are involved in the management and delivery of clean energy products and services.

Earlier this month, representatives from all eight countries met in Washington for a USAID sponsored executive exchange program organized by United States Energy Association (USEA). The program was designed to strengthen the network by connecting the SAWIE professionals with their U.S. peers. The program provided a forum to expose the South Asian representatives to the issues discussed and debated in the U.S. on the role of women in sustainable energy and gave

them potential best practices that can be adopted in their own regions. Interactive lecture sessions were led by eminent U.S. energy sector professionals and site visits were organized to various renewable energy projects and green buildings, while solar and wind technology applications, including improved cook stoves, solar lighting systems, and alternative energy sources, were demonstrated.

During the week long event, the Energy Management Center in Kerala, India announced that it will host a proposed SAWIE Center of Excellence in Kerala that will be involved in capacity building, gender mainstreaming, policy support, and other innovative projects to enhance the participation of women in energy sector decision making. ■



Photo/Stella Group

Participants in the South Asia Women in Energy executive exchange toured a photovoltaic/wind power containerized power station developed by SkyBuilt Power. This quick deployment power generator is used by the U.S. military and the cellular industry.